

Cache Valley Digital Health Community

Project Report

January 9, 2009

Opening thoughts

As mentioned in previous meetings, the Cache Valley eHealth Community Initiative is attempting to develop a community-level service-oriented system that could ultimately lower health-care costs and improve the population's overall health. It will seek to accomplish these primary objectives by

- Improving the exchange of current and accurate health-related information patients, physicians and their staff, hospitals, laboratories, pharmacies, home-care providers, wellness programs, and other health-care professionals.
- Creating new ways of delivering health-care services (e.g., on-line diet or exercise consultation.)
- Giving patients access to a board range of electronic services that can
 - Help improve their understanding of personally relevant health-care issues
 - Give more direct access to their own medical records
 - Help them record and manage their own health information
 - Track changes in their health that might give cause for concern (or celebration)
- Allow patients to engage health-care professional for non-electronic services

Accomplishing these goals will require collaboration among a broad range of stakeholders, integration of disparate technologies, and innovations in electronic health-care services. It may also require changes to existing business practices and shift in social behavior.

Review of the Approach

Based on the changes we reported on last time, our strategic plan currently consisting seven parallel tracks:

- Coordination and planning
- Technology Review (ensuring we understand available technology and other initiatives)
- Vision Building (creating a long-term vision and framework for series of solutions)
- Conceptual Analysis (ensuring we understand the breadth and depth of problem domain)
- Feasibility Study
- Funding
- Community building

Accomplishments

Most of our efforts in the last month have focused on building our core team. Specifically, we have

- Hired 4 more master students in Computer Science
- Engaged a physician to spearhead efforts for involving other physicians and pharmacists and for helping to coordinate the interviewing process
- Engaged a local entrepreneur will to coordinate efforts with private companies and practices, assist in grant writing, and other fund raising efforts
- Been bringing developers up to speed on the initiatives goals and challenges

Next steps

- Document the vision, as developed thus far
- Continue the conceptual analysis, specifically start conducting interviews with potential users and document analysis
- Start the feasibility study
- Expand community-building activities
 - making contact with high-level representative for all of the different user groups
- Write grant application